

Remarks

Applicant provides the present amendment in connection with a Request for Continued Examination in an effort to more particularly point out the invention.

Claim Amendments

Claims 3, 6, 11 and 18 have been amended to more particularly point out that “no member extends” between the magnet and the magnetic field sensor in “either of said first or second position.” Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections

The pending claims have been rejected over Tokunaga et al. (2002/0190874) or Tokunaga combined with Becker (6,095,555). Tokunaga clearly teaches a configuration wherein a shielding plate 14 extends between a magnet 7 and a sensor 4. *See e.g. Tokunaga, Fig. 7 and Col. 5, lines 59-63.* As such, Tokunaga fails to teach or suggest a configuration wherein “no member extends” between the magnet and the magnetic field sensor in “either of said first or second position”, as required by each of the pending claims. Moreover, neither Tokunaga nor Becker, nor their combination, teaches or suggest a configuration wherein a sensor is in “opposed facing relationship” with a magnet in combination with “no member” extending between the magnet and the magnetic field sensor in “either of said first or second position”, as recited in the pending claims.

At least for these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event of any fee deficiencies, or that additional fees are payable, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2121 as necessary.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
/Donald J. Perreault/

Donald J. Perreault, Reg. # 40,126
Attorney for Applicants
Grossman, Tucker, Perreault & Pfleger, PLLC
55 South Commercial Street
Manchester, NH 03101
Phone: (603)668-6560; Fax: (603)668-2970